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OUTPOST REPORT

FROM New Delhi REPORT NO. JRA-103 DATE 31.8.1944

SUBJECT Interrogation of Japanese Prisoner of War - OGAWA, Yoshito.

COUNTRY REPORTED ON Japan and Empire SUBJECT Y

SOURCE AND DEGREE OF RELIABILITY This interrogation was made
by Mr. John K. Emmerson, Assistant Political Advisor to
General Stilwell.

CLASSIFICATION:

"SECRET"

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THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE TEAM
Attached to U.S. Armed Forces C-B-I.
APO # 689.

JAPANESE
PRISONER
OF WAR
INTERROGATION

Place Interrogated: 20th General Hosp.
Date Interrogated:
Date of Report: 22 March 1944
By: John E. Emmerson.

NAME OF POW:
RANK:
AGE:
ORGANISATION:
HOME ADDRESS:
OCCUPATION:
EDUCATION:
MARITAL STATUS:
DATE CAPTURED:
DATE OF ARRIVAL
AT 20TH GENERAL
HOSPITAL:

Ogawa, Yoshito
Private
32
56th Regiment, 18th Division.
Nishiki, Kishima Gun, Saga-Ken
COAL Miner
Middle School
Unmarried
10, March, 1944.

HISTORY: POW's father and mother are not living; he has a younger brother in Omuta, Japan and a cousin at above address. in Saga. POW's father was a policeman and served in various parts of Japan including Taiwan. Previous to his employment as a coal miner, POW was in the Prefectural Police Force, Fukuoka Prefecture. POW entered military service in March 1940.

MILITARY HISTORY:

On first entering the service POW was assigned to the 48th unit at Kurume. On August 12, 1940 POW proceeded with his regiment to Canton. In December 1941 he was in Malaya. He was with his unit

at Singapore and in March 1942 went to Rangoon. POW served in Mandalay, Kari, Shwebo and Maymyo. He was in Shadazup in October 1943, in Yupoang and Ningyben in November.

CAPTURE:

POW was in the action in early March, and was wounded by fire from tanks near Walaw Bum in early March (the 10th). He was then taken prisoner by the Chinese.

INFORMATION & PROPAGANDA:

News: POW said that troops at the front had no access to news of any kind. He did not know what was going on outside of his own little unit. He said he would like to have news even though it might be bad news.

War: POW said he had not known that Americans were engaged in the fighting in North Burma. The Japanese troops thought they were fighting only Chinese and some British. He described the terrifying experience of being attacked by tanks. He said that they had not expected tanks would be used in the jungle and that the experience was worse than he had imagined.

FIGHTING CONDITIONS:

Morale: POW stated that losses were very heavy in his unit in the battle of early March. Every officer in his Company was either killed, wounded or taken to the rear because of illness. Morale among the troops was low. They had lost their fighting spirit, and acted only on orders received.

Supplies & Food: POW's particular Company had sufficient food supplies. They left quantities of rice in Walaw Bum when they retreated. Likewise his Company did not suffer from a shortage of ammunition. He stated, however, that the 18th Division had the worst weapons in the Japanese Army.

Aircraft: POW laughed when asked about Japanese planes in Burma. He said he had never seen any, and all the soldiers were complaining about the absence of air support.

Entertainment: POW said that his unit had received comfort kits from Japan on the average of two or three times a year. Since they had been overseas he recalled that the last time they received comfort kits was in Mandalay in July 1943. He said that most of the "comfort kits girls" available to the Japanese troops in Burma were Koreans. He said that they had very little chance to see a Japanese woman.

GENERAL IDEAS: Japan: POW insisted that he could never return to Japan. Once having been taken prisoner he was disgraced in the eyes of his family and friends. POW said that he had no recent news of conditions in Japan. He had heard that the restrictions and rationing were becoming more severe but he did not believe that the people were actually suffering. When asked what he thought would happen if Japan were defeated, POW said he had never thought of this.

Burmese: Asked his opinion of the Burmese, POW said he had not had much contact with them. Some of the natives were used for labourers and seemed to be satisfactory. However, he thought that the Burmese were really not very friendly to the Japanese, and that they did not appreciate their independence. He said it was very difficult for the Burmese and the Japanese to understand each other. One reason was the fact that the Japanese are characteristically short tempered.

Americans: Asked to explain the reasons for the outbreak of the war between Japan and the U.S., POW stated that he could offer no explanation. He added that none of the Japanese troops knew why they were fighting. They obeyed orders and did not think of the reasons behind these orders.

POW said he had never known any Americans in Japan. Asked to describe the attitude of the Japanese towards the Americans POW replied earnestly that the Japanese fundamentally harboured no enmity towards Americans and the U.S. On the contrary, their attitude was friendly. He said he hoped that he might have a chance to go to the U.S. to take up life again.

Treatment: POW had expected to be shot when captured and was surprised at the good treatment he received.
